

MEDIA RELEASE

8 April 2020

Help and support for intercountry adoptees and their families

The Australian Government's Department of Social Services has selected Relationships Australia in South Australia to be the lead organisation to deliver the national Intercountry Adoptee and Family Support Service (ICAFSS). We will begin to deliver this service nationwide through the Relationships Australia network on 1 July 2021.

ICAFSS is a free service and offers counselling, information and support to those whose lives include intercountry adoption.

Announcing the new service today, CEO of Relationships Australia in South Australia Dr Claire Ralfs said we are pleased to work with the intercountry adoption community to ensure effective and accessible support services are available.

"We respect that intercountry adoptees and their families enrich the diversity of our community. We look forward to assisting them to positively address their unique challenges," Dr Ralfs said.

Relationships Australia in South Australia has been working in the post adoption area since 2006, and much of this work has been supporting intercountry adoptees and their families.

We are passionate about supporting those with lived experience to share their knowledge and wisdom in this space. Together, we want to enhance our service model and create opportunities for the voices of people with lived experience to be heard.

We are working closely with the current service provider, Relationship Matters, to ensure a smooth transition for clients. We will ensure a supportive handover process by engaging with existing counsellors to support clients who wish to continue receiving support through the ICAFSS.

We acknowledge the strong commitment, care and support Relationships Matters have provided to clients since 2016.

You can call or email the Intercountry Adoptee and Family Support Service at Relationships Australia on (08) 8245 8100 or email icafss@rasa.org.au.

For more information visit [Relationships Australia website](#), or the [Intercountry Adoption Australia website](#).

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